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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY **Bulgaria**
SUBJECT **Fortification of the Bulgar-Yugoslav Frontier**
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1. For its entire length, the Bulgar-Yugoslav frontier is now completely protected by barbed wire entanglements. These are between two and a half and three meters in height and from four to five meters wide. The entanglements are usually sited 150 to 200 meters behind the actual frontier line. Between the barbed wire and the frontier, every ten or fifteen meters, a band of earth five or six meters wide is cultivated. The system here does not differ from that usual both in the USSR and in satellite states, as a means of preventing checking up on secret movement in either direction.
2. The three zones into which the area contiguous to the frontier is divided, are located respectively at distances of twenty, thirty, and fifty kilometers from the border. Travel in these is possible only with permission of the Darjavna Sigurnost. A pass good in one zone is not good in another.
3. As on the Turkish frontier, a line of tanks has been dug in at a distance of fifteen kilometers from the frontier. They are about half buried, so as to constitute a kind of bunker. All are still equipped with their cannon and machine guns. Many of these tanks are of German make. Behind the line of tanks is a trench system, which includes artillery positions and machine gun nests. The system has three lines of trenches at distances of eight hundred meters from one another.
4. Each sector of the trench system has observation posts, where soldiers with field glasses maintain a constant watch on the frontier. Patrols are kept moving at night. This constant watch on the frontier, even in time of peace, is, however, not unusual in the Balkans.

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5. It is possible to give specific information regarding the frontier zones of the province of Kyustendil. The first zone contains the villages of:

Gyueshevo	Prekol	Zheravino	Cherven Dol
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Dojno Selo (Malanovska)	Nitza	Gurbanovtzi	Kopriva
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Bobeshino /Boboshevo?	Kutugurtzi	Zreshnovo (Mazarachevo)
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6. The second zone contains the following villages:

Bistritsa	Lisets
Rasovo	Leska
Galerno	Kashelovo
Ramentzi	Dazhde
Stakavitza	Vitza
Vratsa	Madrahevo

7. The third zone runs along the Struma River but does not include the town of Kyustendil. The principal villages in this zone are:

Perevol	Sovolyano	Lozno	Zhilintzi
Radlovtsi			

8. Near Dernovo, along the Sofia road and at a distance of about fifteen kilometers from the frontier, and also east of the village of Guishevo, near Vratsa, there are six German-made tanks on each side of the road. They are half buried and retain their cannon and machine guns in serviceable state.
9. Near Dernovo, beginning at Osogavska Mountain, the trenches commence in the plain, with the usual wire, artillery positions, machine guns, and OP's. This system passes Rasovo and Bistritsa, ending in the lower part of the latter village. The main road through Dernovo has some very sharp turns. At each of these turns, which are two or three kilometers apart, antitank obstacles have been set up on each side of the road. In addition there are also concrete walls with openings barred with wood or iron, to hinder the approach of hostile troops.
10. Three lines of trenches, about 800 meters apart, start from the Radushka River and the village of Zhilentsi, follow the limits of the Vraza and end at a point west of Kyustendil on the main road to Gyueshevo. Along the left side of the road between Kyustendil and Gyueshevo, there are short trenches with artillery positions, machine gun nests, and OP's.

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11. Most of these positions are so sited as to have the best visibility and the best field of fire along the road Kyustendil Gyueshevo Skoplje (Uskub). The walls of the trenches have wooden revetment and there are ditches to carry off the water.
12. There are the following frontier posts and patrols in the first zone of the frontier in Kyustendil province:
 - a. Gyueshevo: an army detachment and a military detachment. Each is described as a "section", and this is perhaps meant technically to mean the unit next below a platoon. The frontier post at Gyueshevo is being held by nothing stronger than a squad, some years before World War II, at which time the CIA did not exist.
 - b. Near Deve Bair: Detachments of frontier guards.
 - c. Zhadilovo, Korriya, and Zheravino: Detachments of Frontier Guards.
 - d. Boboshevo: 180 soldiers quartered in the schoolhouse. Their mission is to watch the frontier zone near Javor, in the direction of the villages of Zreshnovo and Kutugurtzi.
 - e. From this point to the frontier, surveillance is provided by soldiers in Gurbanovtzi.
13. OPs are nearly as active as they would be in war-time. They are built ten to fifteen meters high. Soldiers with field glasses are continually observing the terrain around them. At night "patrols" of two soldiers each are continually going back and forth along their assigned sectors. This patrolling is done outside the barbed wire. Where places seem specially suited for clandestine passage, three soldiers are always kept in ambush.
14. Within the frontier defenses, surveillance remains in the hands of the Militia, all of whom are proved Communists.

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Gyueshevo

Zreshnovo

Kutugurtzi

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Zreshnovo

Zreshnovo